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Relief on way for hard-hit Caribbean area

ST. CHRISTOPHER, Lee-ward Islands (BP) — Oliver Bourne crouched in an inner hall of his house for two hours along with his family waiting for Hurricane Georges to push by.

It seemed like an eternity. There was so much flying debris," Bourne said. "All you could hear was the wind and things hitting the side of the

building."

Four hours later, the sun revealed the storm damage.

More than 12,500 homes — 85% of all houses on the island were destroyed or damaged.

The extensive damage across the Caribbean created an immediate need for volunteers and monetary donations to help people rebuild their devastated lives, said a Southern Baptist disaster relief expert.

The need is compounded by massive flooding in Bangladesh, for which Southern Baptist missionaries also are

Baptist missionaries also are

mobilizing relief ministries.
"Hurricane Hugo [1989] and
Hurricane Luis [1995] came through here and neither did

this much damage," Bourne said. "Luis was three days and didn't do the damage Georges did in an hour and a half."

Georges cut a path through the Leeward Islands causing heavy damage to St. Christ-opher (St. Kitts), Antigua, and Saba. Kitts lost more than 50% of its 1998 sugar cane crop.
Almost half the churches on

the island were destroyed and 80 % of the island hospital was blown away.

"These people are going to have a real challenge rebuilding," said Eddie Pettit, a disaster damage assessor who works for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

'They've lost more than 25% of the available resources for rebuilding. When you're talking about 12,500 homes that need repair, you're talking about a large-scale task," he

As critical as the need is for construction teams, the need for Southern Baptists to rally financially is more pressing.

Money used to purchase

building materials, blankets, and plastic to cover roofs comes from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's general relief fund. With more than 20 million

people in Bangladesh facing hunger and disease due to monsoon flooding, and now thousands more facing similar circumstances in the Caribbean Basin, Southern Baptist mission leaders have issued an urgent

appeal for relief gifts.

The relief fund — currently containing about \$400,000 — is inadequate to meet the needs related to either disaster.

"This has been an incredible year for disasters," said Bill Cashion, human needs consul-tant for the International Mission Board.

"We know we can't meet every need around the world, but right now we really need to have \$1 million available to adequately deal with the basic needs people have as a result of these two disasters," he said.

Teams of volunteers are being recruited to go to the islands.

Those interested in participating in a project, or in obtain-ing more information about future projects, may contact Joyce Glover at (804) 219-1331. Southern Baptists who want

to contribute to the effort can send gifts designated for "general relief" to: Southern Baptist World Relief, Office of Finance, International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-6767.

Foreign Mission Board (FMB) president R. Keith Parks challenges FMB trustess to lead Southern Baptists from the discord that jeopardizes the denomination to "an unswerving progress toward world evangelization." Trustees rose in applause at the conclusion of Parks' remarks.

UNWAVERING FAITH — Josephine DeCosta (left) may have lost her roof and most of her earthly possessions when Hurricane Georges tore across the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts, but her hope in God

remains strong. Eddie Pettit, a damage assessor for the International Mission Board, talks with DeCosta. (BP photo by Chris Turner)

Nevada Baptists form the 34th state convention to affiliate with Southern Baptists, as the result of a day-and-a-half constituting meeting in Las Vegas. The organization of the new convention comes 30 years to the week after the first Nevada Southern Baptist church was organized.

Oak Grove Church, Smith County, recently completed the greatest revival in its history. With visiting evangelist W. V. May, there were 35 additions — 30 by baptism. R. C. Bounds is pastor.

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WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Preaching in Mississippi

Lee sets endowment

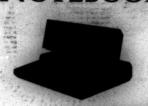
Softball winners named

Start your own BR page



GEORGES' AFTERMATH — Tom Higginbotham (right), a missionary with the International Mission Board, surveys the damage on the island of St. Kitts with International Mission Board damage assessor Eddie Pettit of South Carolina. Southern Baptist volunteer construction teams will be needed to help restore houses. (BP photo by Chris Turner)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK





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One father's ideas on manhood

Dear Son,

here come certain times in fathers' lives when they recognize certain matters must be discussed with their son. You are so young and I am so inexperienced in the ways of fatherhood, but I believe one of those times is upon us long before it should have been necessary.

Events now playing out on the national stage have delivered you and me to this point. We didn't bring about those events but

we're going to have to pay the price for them.

I have been horrified at your exposure to the perversity of our leaders and the sorry

excuses they have offered for their sinful conduct, which has only accelerated in the last few months.

I am deeply concerned about the impressions you are gathering from the childish conduct of politicians and others who increasingly stoop to the lowest acts in order to save their own hides. I myself am confused by the meaningless utter-ances currently being substituted for rational discourse, so I know how you must feel.

I am angry that thoughtless people have forced us to have this dis-cussion before its proper time, in the midst of what should be an age of innocence for you, but I have a responsibility as your father.

I want you to know what it means to be

As I pondered where to start this discussion, the Lord always led me back to ... me. That didn't come as a surprise, since I prayed for you many years before I saw your face. I asked for you, I wanted you, and God saw fit in his wisdom to grant my request. So here goes.

You should first understand that I am an imperfect man, a sinner saved only by the grace of God through his Son, Jesus Christ. That's a fact. I do not wish to give you the impression that I have all of this life fig-

It's been a long time since I attended a family reunion, but the memories of love and

laughter still stir within me and

turn my thoughts toward home.

Aunt Ruth was 90 years old when I last saw her at a reunion

back in Georgia. My wife and children chatted beside me as

we slowly worked our plates past the long tables of roast beef, chicken and dumplings, corn, peas, and potatoes, and an endless array of pies and cakes.

Aunt Ruth shuffled toward

me, fixing her gray eyes on my face. "So, you're Dean. They tell me you've made a preacher."

"Yes ma'am," I replied, while my children giggled.

"That's mighty hard for me to believe, you know. — but then God often does amazing things!" she said

Aunt Ruth shuffled off, leav-

ing me to marvel at the grace of God. Yes, I mused, God is able

to do far more than we dare to

annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Oct. 27-28 at First Church,

Jackson, I hope you'll consider it

It's a time to renew old

second made works make

acquaintances and make new

ones. It's an occasion to feast

As we gather for the 163rd

ured out. I don't. I just have WE DON'T HAVE A PLACE FOR someone who guides me.

Real men are committed to a right relationship with their God. I'm not talking about a public confession/profession upon getting caught in some vile act, but a real, every-day effort to live in a manner pleasing to God. I pledge to do my best to reflect that belief. The way to God is through his Son, Jesus Christ. It is my hope

Son, Jesus Christ. It is my hope and prayer that you will know Jesus as the Rock upon which you can build your foundation for life. I have chosen that path, and I will do anything within my power to help you come to that

Real men are committed to their churches. They understand the importance of gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ for fellowship, study, and worship of the Heavenly Father. I don't mean just showing up for services once a week in a nice suit. I mean getting really involved in the work of the church, and I pledge to model that behavior for you.

Real men are committed to

their families. I promise that you will see in me an unconditional love for your mother that will last throughout my lifetime, that will permeate every decision I make.

I promise to be there for you and your sister as long as God grants me breath, to be involved in every aspect of your upbringing. I promise that you can depend on me.

This short list is not meant to be exhaustive, but it's a good start on the road to being the man God so deeply desires you to be.

I do not lightly approach this issue of manhood, and I don't want to minimize the awesome power of Christian womanhood — a subject for another day.

making these promises in such a public manner. The very fact that I am willing to do so will antagonize them. I do not answer to them, but to the God

their proud, false ways will ridicule me for

who chose in his love to save me from an eternity of misery and darkness, without whom I would be nothing. In light of what God did for me, I consider their criticism a badge of honor.

I pray that one day, with your own children at your feet, you will feel the same way. Love, Daddy

YOU ON THE TEAM, BUT YOU

CAN BE OUR DEACON - ALL

UP FOR THE GAME AND

ENCOURAGE US /*

YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOW

Some people who claim manhood in Will Perkins is four-and-a-half years old.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL:



Our Baptist family reunion

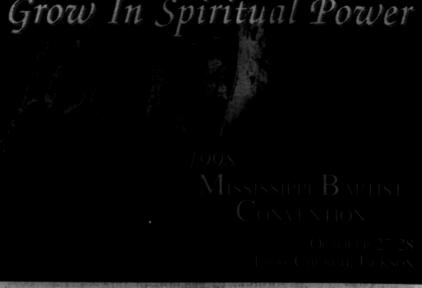
By Dean Register, president Mississippi Baptist Convention

from the table of God's blessings and to celebrate his grace for the glorious salvation he has richly provided.

God's challenge as we approach a new millennium, and to sharpen our vision for leadership.

Having served churches in four different state Baptist con-

It's an opportunity to hear



ventions, I am sometimes asked to compare our beloved convention with others. Each state convention carries a characteristic style unique to itself, but Mississippi Baptists seem to love each other in a far deeper way.

Sure, we have our differ-ences and, like members of a family, we occasionally fuss.

However, the unifying objec-Jesus far outweighs the lesser issues that might divide us.

With the State of Mississippi

watching, we have a grand opportunity to demonstrate Jesus' precept that "all men will know we are his disciples by our love for one another" (John 13:35). It might even leave some critics shaking their heads about the amazing works of God that are stirring in our lives.

Some may find it hard to believe what God can do, but none will doubt that he alone is doing it.

I hope you'll come to the reunion. Bring a large platter of prayer, a basket of encouragement, a pitcher of joy, and an appetite for the Word of God.

Kneeling with you and serving him.

Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

THE BAPTIST RECORDwhite the love the dell'

a family reunion.

things!" she said.

imagine (Eph. 3:20).

OCTOBER 22, 1998

Annuity Board rates stay level, Pr

DALLAS (BP) Annuity Board of the Southern Convention Baptist has announced there will be no general rate increases for its insurance and health care plans on Jan. 1, 1999. Also, the board announced plans to expand access to preferred provider organization networks and a new nationwide integrated pharmacy program for pre-

scription drugs.
"As of Jan. 1, 1999, we plan to have access to a preferred provider organization (PPO) for the vast majority of Southern Baptist church employees," said Douglas D. Day, managing director of insurance services for the board. The broad expansion of access will come through an arrangement with Private Healthcare Systems (PHCS), offering one of the nation's largest provider networks.

Annuity Board participants will now be joined with more than 5.7 million members of health plans coast to coast and in Alaska," Day said. "Through PHCS, our participants will have access to preferred physicians, hospitals, specialty care

centers, and other health-care providers," he said. The Private
Healthcare Network of PHCS
includes 2,300 hospitals and
270,000 physicians.

O. S. Hawkins, president of
the Appuity Board, said, "We

the Annuity Board, said, "We are keenly aware that affordability of health care is a huge concern for most of our pastors and other church staff members. Avoiding a Jan. 1 rate increase, and introducing other cost-saving measures, is the kind of good news we like to deliver."

In addition to the PSP medical plan, the board's long-term disability, life, accident and accidental death, and dismemberment plans also will have no rate increase Jan. 1.

Day said a few groups in the Employer Security Program, a medical plan for institutions and churches with 10 or more employees, will have experience-based rate increases Jan. 1. Those employers will be indi-vidually contacted. "The only participants in the Personal Security Program who will have an increase Jan. 1 are those who cross an age bracket, add dependents, or move to a region with higher rates," Day said. Rates

for the second half of 1999 will

be reviewed in the spring.

Day emphasized the Personal Security Program (PSP) offered by the Annuity Board still is a traditional indemnity plan where the participants can choose any quali-fied physician or hospital for treatment. The option of choosing providers in a PPO in order to save money is entirely the

choice of the participant.

The Annuity Board anticipates contracting with Merck-Medco, one of America's largest pharmacy care managers, to administer the prescription drug benefit of all Annuity Board plans. The giant provider serves more than 50 million Americans and dispenses 3 million prescriptions a week through more than 53,000 local pharmacies, and some 900,000 prescriptions a week through mail order. Day said there will be no increase Jan. 1 in the co-

payment for prescription drugs.
With the change to an integrated pharmacy plan administered by Merck-Medco, tered by Merck-Medco, Annuity Board participants will have the benefit of a central computer-based record of all

their whether purchased pharmacy or by mail. this record should make it likely that patients will be exposed to a reaction or other drug-induced problem caused by different physicians pre-scribing drugs that can cause a negative interaction.

All Annuity Board participants will receive information and identification cards to secure benefits with the new providers, including information on transfer of their mail

order prescriptions.

Day noted both PHCS and Merck-Medco have Internet sites. Participants with Internet access can visit the sites to determine available providers and other information. They are www.phcs.com www.merck-medco.com.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



Mississippi Baptists to convene Oct. 27-28

By Tim Nicholas MBCB Communications director

The 163rd annual session of the **Baptist** Mississippi

will take Convention place Oct. 27-28, at First Church, Jackson, with the theme "Grow in Spiritual Power," according to Forrest Sheffield of Tupelo, chairman of the convention's order of business committee.

"We have some very wonderful exciting and gifted speakers enlisted who will be spread over the convention time who will provide lots of encouragement and good strong Bible preaching," Sheffield said.

Regular features of the convention include the president's address, the convention sermon, and a report from the executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi **Baptist** Convention Board (MBCB).

Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, will deliver the president's address at 10:25 a.m. on Oct. 27.

Register is eligible for a second one-year term as president of the conven-

Futral Richard Powell, pastor Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will deliver the convention sermon at 4:15 p.m. on Oct. 28. Chuck Pourciau, pastor of First Church, Louisville, is alternate preacher.

Newly-elected MBCB executive director-

treasurer Jim Futral will be in charge of the Tuesday evening presentation.

Other featured speakers will be Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church,

Dallas, who will speak at 11:15 a.m. on Oct. 27; and David Jeremiah, pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajoh, Calif., and speaker for "Turning Point," radio program. Each year a Bible

scholar is invited to lead in a series of three devocalled Bible tionals Treasures.

Register

This year's Bible Treasure speaker will be Bill Tolar, distinguished professor of biblical backgrounds and special con-sultant to the president, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Tolar will speak on the morning and afternoon of Oct. 27, and on the morning of Oct. 28.

Music features of the convention include the choir and sanctuary of Temple orchestra Church, Hattiesburg; Boyd at Calvary Church, Petal and director of Cross Country Christian Entertainment; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson, music evangelist; the sanctuary choir of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson;

Ronnie Cottingham of Lucedale, music evan-gelist; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the William Carey College Choir; and Kevin Williams of Clinton, student worship leader.

In addition to election of officers, the

convention will consider passage of a Cooperative Program budget for 1999, and any resolutions brought by messengers.

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Remot Walley

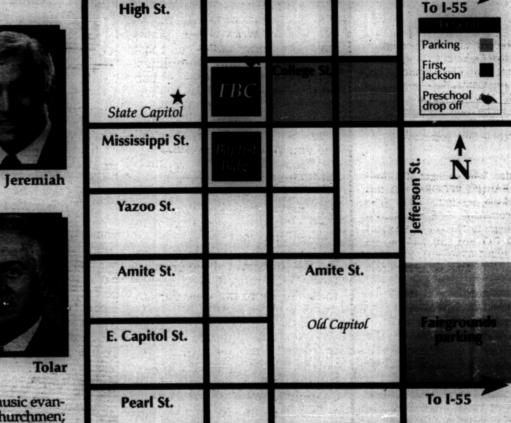
BOOKKEEPER

OCTOBER 22, 1998 VOL. 122

No. 37







Take the High Street exit off I-55. Go west on High Street to the intersection with State Street. Turn left and go two blocks to First Church, Jackson.



vussissippi pastors relate preaching styles

By Carl M. White Associate Editor

Part one of a series

The Baptist Record asked four pastors in the state of various

ages and with varied backrounds to answer ques-ions about preaching. Over the next several weeks their responses regarding the act of preaching, the state of preaching, and resources for preaching will be presented.

After 34 years of pastoring, the last 13 at Broadmoor Church in Jackson, on Oct. 1st Jim Futral became the executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He is graduate of Blue College, **Mountain** attended Southwestern Seminary, and graduated New from Orleans Seminary in 1977 with a Register master of divinity and with the doctor of min-

istry degree in 1980. Dean Register is the pastor of Temple Church in Hattiesburg, and is the current president of the Mississippi **Baptist** Convention. A native of Georgia, Register is a graduate of Valdosta State College, and New Orleans Seminary, with a Pourciau both a master of divinity and doctor of theology

Chuck Pourciau came Church, First Louisville, in June of 1991. A native of Louisiana, he is a gradu-ate of Mississippi College and has the master of divinity and doctor of Blythe New Orleans Seminary.

Rickey Blythe has been pas-tor of First Church, Flora, for the past four years. He previously pastored churches in Texas and Mississippi. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary.

BR: In a short statement, what is your philosophy of preaching?

BLYTHE: Be true to your calling, thoroughly Biblical, and preach with the anointing of God so as to effect change in the lives of hearers.

FUTRAL: Preaching is the proclamation of what God has said, in a way that people can understand, by a man who has had an experience with the Lord.

POURCIAU: Making the Word of God real in the daily lives of my people. Is that short enough?

REGISTER: My own philosophy of preaching is this: to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God, for the salvation of the lost and the edification of the saved.

BR: Of the many steps in sermon preparation — exegesis, interpretation, outlining, illustrating, application, presentation, etc. — what is the most challenging for you?

REGISTER: I would say developing a clear and memorable outline requires the most from me. Each Thursday I complete an interactive outline for 1800 to 2000 worshippers to use on Sunday. Arranging the logical order and flow of the outline in concert with the Scripture demands a lot of prayer and sweat.

BLYTHE: I find application by far the most challenging and difficult part of sermon preparation. Sometimes in the preaching event it is tempting to stay in the Biblical world. What helps me is having a real close contact with the congregation and with individuals from the community. As I prepare my message and the truth of the text naturally infolds, their questions and comments which have become a part of me then become part of my message.

FUTRAL: If you mean by "challenging" — exciting, stimulating, something that gets your mental, emotional, and spiritual juices flowing, each of these areas have been exactly that to me. They call for me to think beyond the norm, to think deeper, and wider, and in different ways in order to formulate what I feel God is trying

to say through me.

POURCIAU: The most challenging and, in my opinion, the most important (step) didn't make your list. For me, sermon planning is the most challenging. I have attempted to have a sermon plan that includes text, topic, outline, six months to a year in advance. I force myself to take the time to do this. This relieves a great deal of pressure, assists in worship planning, and helps me avoid repetition.

BR: Veteran preaching instructor Haddon Robinson says that application is the most dangerous part of the preparation process, with more heresy preached there than in any other part of the sermon. How do you avoid preaching heresy?

POURCIAU: I agree that there is great danger in application. The danger occurs when we take our pet peeves and attempt to impose them on the Scripture. I try to avoid this by letting the Scripture shape the application and not visa versa.

REGISTER: No preacher is infallible. Errors will be made unintentionally from time to time. Since heresy involves a denial of what is clearly revealed in Scripture, two steps are crucial to avoiding it. First, a preacher must be meticulously honest with the text of scripture. He must wrestle with the biblical background and culture of the first century in an effort to understand what the text originally meant to its recipients. Second, he must be painstakingly honest with himself. He must not force the Scripture to say what it has never said. The application of biblical truth to its contemporary setting will not bypass the sinfulness of humanity on one side or the sovereignty of God on the other.

BLYTHE: I would agree with Dr. Robinson. It is at the point of application that exegesis, if not guarded, becomes eisegesis. If exegesis means to explain out the meaning of the text, then eisegesis is the very opposite and means a reading into the text. In other words we bring our traditional interpretations to the text and make the text fit our preconceived ideas.

FUTRAL: I do not know that I am in any position to argue with or agree with Haddon Robinson. His point is well

taken, though, in the sense that once we begin to make application of truth, it can easily be our personal application of what we believe the Bible is saying and thereby can be shaped by our personal bias or prejudice. To avoid error in application, it is vital that the foundational study in clear exegesis and in interpretation be made so that you avoid getting off base.

BR: It is easy to fall into the trap of needing to fill the sanctuary rather than filling the pulpit. How do you avoid the temptations of seeking to entertain, please, and impress others in your preaching, rather than just preach the Word? FUTRAL: The issue of

whether preaching is entertainment or simply instruction in the ways of God is a valid issue to discuss. We are to preach the word and we are to attract others, but it needs to be understood that this is not an either/or. One thing is for sure, if no one is present in the sanctuary, not much is going to take place. The biggest problem faced by preachers today is the comparison made between pastors and the world's greatest communicators that are seen almost every day on television. To me, a study of the preaching style of Jesus reveals that his communication was both appealing, and soul-searching

POURCIAU: It all boils down to whom I am going to obey. After preaching for about a year, I was one miserable pastor. I wrongly assumed that making everyone happy was my job. God and I had a heart to heart talk on a Florida beach late one night. I began the conversation by asking, "Why can't you give me a job where all I have to do is please one boss?" In my mind he quickly responded, "That's what you have. Now start obeying him." If I keep that a priority, I can overcome that ever-present temptation to please man with

my preaching.
REGISTER: I decided long ago that it was far more important for me to pursue the pleasure of God rather than the approval of man. My motives must always be surrendered to the judgment of God. Effective preaching can be impressive and entertaining, but that's not the main purpose of it. Any pastor who humbly and courageously preaches God's Word will no doubt inspire and please some hearers and probably disappoint others.

BLYTHE: It sounds simplistic, but this is really true. I avoid the temptation to do all those things by heeding Paul's words to Timothy, "preach the Word." If I set out to entertain then I must become more sensational Sunday after Sunday or the people will leave to go to the next dog and pony show. If what I preach is the truth then I hope the people are pleased.

Baptist pastors on upper end of pay scale

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Baptist pastors on average were higher paid than their counterparts in other denominations in a recent national church-staff compensation study.

The average salary for a senior pastor in a Baptist church, including housing and utilities, was \$67,057 in the 1997-98 National Church Staff Compensation Survey, conducted by the National Association of Church Business Administration in Fort Worth, Texas.

That figure is much higher than a \$36,046 average pastoral salary reported in another recent survey of ministerial salaries in Southern Baptist churches in 13 states. That is at least partly because the Southern Baptist study includes a large proportion of small churches, which pay their ministers less, while the interdenominational study is skewed toward larger

congregations.

Following Baptists in the study by church business administrators were senior ministers or priests in the Episcopal Church, who earned an average salary of \$65,995; Presbyterian, \$65,567; Methodist, \$64,940; and Assemblies of God/Pentecostal, \$62,343. Those in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and Church of Christ were paid \$53,577.

The highest-paid ministers were those cate-orized as non-denominational or independent. Senior pastors of those churches reported an average annual income of \$69,570.

The average Roman Catholic priest, meanwhile, was paid \$21,580.

According to the survey, the typical Protestant church with a budget between \$750,000 and \$2 million spends about 45% of its annual operating budget on personnel.

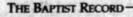
The average number of staff members for a church with 250-699 in worship attendance is 13, an average of one staff member for each 85 church members.

That number includes full-time, part-time, ministerial and support staff.

The study reports salary levels far above another recent study of Southern Baptist churches conducted in 13 Baptist state conventions. In that study, however, more than threefourths of the churches averaged attendance of 250 or lower.

In the study by church business administra-tors, only 17% of the churches surveyed report-ed an attendance below 250.

Nearly 55% had an attendance of 700 or more, and one in six averaged 1,500 or more.



Lee WMU establishes Miss. endowment

(TUPELO) — The Woman's Missionary Union Associational Leadership Team of Lee Association, Tupelo, has given the initial gift to establish the Mississippi WMU Endowment Fund with the national WMU Foundation.

Associational WMU Director Jane Burns, a member of Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, announced the estab-lishment of the fund August 18 at the team's monthly meeting.

The leaders plan to encourage all WMU members in their association and District II to give \$1 per month to the fund.

Alan Medders, president of the WMU Foundation, commended the women for their vision and support, noting that this is the first "partnership WMU endowment" established through an association.

It will be highlighted as a model for other associations,

Medders told the group that the WMU Foundation will award annually 5% of the corpus value of the Mississippi WMU Endowment Fund. The 5% will be divided equally between the Mississippi WMU Executive Board and to the WMU Vision Fund for missions

projects.
The WMU Vision Fund finances WMU activities and missions projects not funded through other channels. The WMU Executive Board approves the projects in an annual budget which generally includes such things as WMU's Project HELP emphases, Christian Women's Job Corps, a pre-college retreat for the children of missionaries, assistance to WMU in new work areas, GA camps in new work states and language materials.

For more information, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Friends of Barbara Massey, design editor for Girls in Action magazines for SBC WMU, have established the Barbara Massey Children's Network

Endowment Fund with the WMU Foundation.

The purpose of the fund is to accom-Massey's dream of network-ing with children's leaders around the world for profes-sional development and the creation of resources.

The groundwork for the project was laid during the 1995 World Baptist Alliance's Women's Department meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina when she met children's

prohibited the project from materializing.
Alan Medders,

Foundation president, announced Sept. 9 that friends and co-workers had established the fund to facilitate the project.

The Foundation will award 5 percent of the fund's corpus value each year to fund projects to that end. A native of Laurel, Massey has served on the national WMU staff for nearly 20 years.

Prior to then, she was on the staff of First Church, Jackson.

O'Brien, WMU Dellanna executive director, commended Massey for her vision and expressed appreciation for her 19 years as editor of the Girls in Action magazines, Aware, Discovery, and GA World

For more information, contact the WMU Foundation, P.O. 11346, Birmingham, AL

Present at the announcement the Mississippi WMU Endowment Fund Aug. 18 were (standing) Judy Anderson, Women on Mission consultant and member of First Church, Saltillo; Mary Jane Nethery, missions support consultant and member of Calvary Church, Tupelo; Ann Peach, missions study consultant and member of Auburn Church, Auburn; Angela Phillips, secretary and member of First, Saltillo; (seated) Jane Burns, associational WMU director and member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; and Alan

Medders, president of the WMU

Foundation.(BR special photo)



Present at the announcement of the Barbara Massey Children's Network leaders from Endowment Fund were: (from left) Dellanna O'Brien, SBC WMU executive direct around the world. Endowment Fund were: (from left) Dellanna O'Brien, SBC WMO executive directions of the tor; Gary Furr, Massey's pastor at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham; However, the Massey; Alan Medders, WMU Foundation president; Sylvia DeLoach and Jan expenses of translaturentine, the fund's initiators; and June Whitlow, WMU senior associate exections, equipment and resources have utive director. (BR special photo)

Miss. WMU plans July '99 Habitat housing blitz

By Carl M. White Associate Editor

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) leaders met at Camp Garaywa Oct. 15 to continue making plans for Mississippi's participation in the 1999 WMU/Habitat for Humanity housing blitz. In six days during July 1999, Mississippi WMU women and other women from around the country will build two houses in Jackson as part of an eight

house building blitz.

Dates and locations of other houses to be constructed are: July 11-Aug. 14, 1999, in Circleville, W. Va., and Pine Ridge, S. D.; and July 11-17, 1999, in Cleveland, Ohio; Portland, Ore.; and Albuquerque, N.M.

The first of the eight-house blitz was completed Sept. 12-19 in Fairfield, Ala., by a team of 200 WMU volunteers.

The Fairfield, Ala., house was dubbed the "pilot project" for WMU and most of the workers were employees from the organization's national headquarters in Birmingham.
"The week exceeded all of our expec-

MAKING PLANS — Linda Smith (left) of Calvary Church, for three days on the Fairfield house. "It Jackson, discusses ministry plans with Lisa Strong (right) of First was an opportunity for good fellow- Church, Jackson, at Camp Garaywa. (Photo by Carl M. White)

October 22, 1906

ship. It also brought in women who had never been involved in WMU before.

"The week also highlighted the best Southern Baptists have to offer — cooperation," she said, noting more than 20 churches in the Birmingham area helped make the effort a success.

WMU signed an agreement with Habitat for Humanity International in June 1997 to recruit volunteers and raise \$258,500 in money and/or materials to build eight Habitat houses.

The site location for the two Jackson houses is still not finalized, according to Rebecca Williams, state WMU president, though they will likely be in inner city Jackson. Plans are underway for a variety of ministry events during the six day building blitz.

Fifty percent of the volunteer slots for construction workers is reserved for Mississippi women on a first-come-first-serve basis. The other half will come from out-of-state.

While construction spots are limited, the biggest need is going to be for vol-unteers to help in ministry projects, preparing food, transporting work-ers, and keeping plenty of water available to workers.

All volunteers must be registered through the national WMU volunteer now available from the national and state WMU offices.

For more information contact the state WMU office at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside of lackson (800) 748-1651. Or contact the national WMU office at P.O. Box

WMU's O'Brien released from hospital

BIRMINGHAM Ala. (BP) — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, was released from a Birmingham, Ala., hospital Oct. 13, a little more than two weeks after suffering a mild stroke. She will continue to receive physical therapy as an outpatient.

National WMU President Wanda Lee told employees at the national WMU headquarters in Birmingham Oct. 14 that she continues to be pleased with the progress O'Brien is making. "She has had a wonderful beginning to a terrible situation," said Lee, a registered nurse of more than 25 years.

Lee told employees that O'Brien has been told that she can return to the office when she feels ready. In the meantime, Lee said, O'Brien's administrative assistant will be working with her a few hours each week at home.

of burg every

Focus on Family V.P. addresses ministers

By Carl M. White Associate Editor

DST to end

Be sure to turn clocks back

one hour before retiring on the

evening of Saturday,

Sunday,

savings

(DST)

show up for Sunday School!

Oct. 24, as day-

ends at 2 a.m.

Oct. 25. If you

forget, you're

likely to get a big

surprise when you

time

on Oct. 25

"My heart is in the pastorate," said H. B. London, vice president of the division for pastoral outreach at Focus on the Family. He was the featured speaker at the Covenent Ministerial Fellowship (CMF) conference at First Church, Gulfport.

After spending 31 years pastoring, London has been with the Colorado Springs-based ministry founded by his first cousin, James Dobson, since 1992.

Of the 345,000 protestant senior pastors in the United States, London observed, "From Episcopalian to the hyper-charismatic, we are all pretty much the same.

"At Focus on the Family, our motto is 'Every Moses needs an Aaron.' We are here to hold up your arms in battle," London told the group of Gulf Coast pastors attending the fall Call To Koinonia Conference, one of a series of area conferences held around the state sponsored by CMF.

Founded in 1996, CMF is a volunteer fellowship of Southern Baptist ministers. At the heart of the CMF strategy to stengthen and encourage pastors is a ministerial code of ethics that each member signs. In addition, CMF provides various conferences and educational events and helps organize local support groups.

London says there are five realities that cause him concern when he lays awake at

◆ London is concerned that many pastors have the audacity or arrogance to think that they can make it going solo.

"None of us are strong enough to fight this battle alone," he said.

"You Southern Baptists have this arrogance, that you are the only boat in the sea.' You are not, and you are not above being called into accountability by other people."

◆ London fears that pastors are tempted to do what they do for the wrong reasons. "T. S. Elliot said, "The greatest treason is to do the right thing for the wrong reason.' So you have more in Sunday School than anyone else. Too many are more interested

in style than in substance," he said.

Observing that America is still a nation of small churches, London said it makes him angry when he sees small church pastors looking over God's shoulder at the large church.

"Instead," he said,
"we should be praying,
'Lord, don't let me be
annoyed when I look
down the street and see
that my brother is doing
better than me."

◆ London is concerned when he sees ministers who act as if they and they alone have all the answers.

so much, London Broadmoor Church observed. First, rather than manage crisis, they respond to crisis. Second, too many pastors stop studying

and stop growing.

Third, instead of saying to your congregation, "This is what God is saying to me about the church," a pastor says, "this is what I heard on a tape that someone else is doing."

"If you don't spend quiet time with God, you won't have a word from God for your congregation," he warned.

 London is worried that pastors are forgetting that they are servant/shepherds, not CEOs of the church.

"People are not looking for a CEO mentality, but for a shepherd, whose voice they recognize, and who walks in the market place enough to know what people are experiencing," he said.

"I long to see us put away the facade of professionalism and live where our people are, and hold their hands. They is what they deperately need."

have all the answers.

There are three reasons why pastors move so much, London

IN FOCUS — H. B. London (left), vice-president of the division for pastoral outreach at Focus on the Family, shares a moment with Mike Harland (right), minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

 London fears that pastors are walking into the battle without the power to stand the onslaught of the enemy.

"In Judges, in the story of Samson, there is this one phrase that gets to me; 'He walked into the battle to fight the Philistines and had not realized that the power of God had left him."

Henry Blackaby, in an interview with London, said that he had to move the start of his day up to 4:30 a.m. in order to make adequate time for God.

"It takes a determined and committed man of God to give extraordniary time to God," London said.

Pastors need to spend more time conserving the members they have and beating the bushes for the lost, rather than taking pride in receiving someone else's members, he said.

Ministers interested in joining a support group or seeking more information can contact CMF at P. O. Box 5301, Brandon, MS 39047; or telephone (601) 992-3768.

Miss. pastors' salaries lag behind thirteen states

By Carl M. White Associate Editor

Part two of a series

Mississippi pastors are still below the average for 13 states in compensation, according to a recent study by Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Compensation is salary plus housing, whether counting a housing allowance or the fair rental value of a parsonage. The 13 states are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana,

Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia.

While pastors as a group in the 13-state study have seen an 8.8% increase in compensation, they still are paid less than workers in other fields with comparable skills, according to Spencer.

Ministers, who often are college graduates with master's or doctor's degrees from a university or seminary, lag behind those with similar education levels. According to the U.S. Commerce the Department, average American male with a high school education earned an average salary of \$29,624 in 1994, compared with \$52,193 for college graduates, and \$62,368 for those with a master's

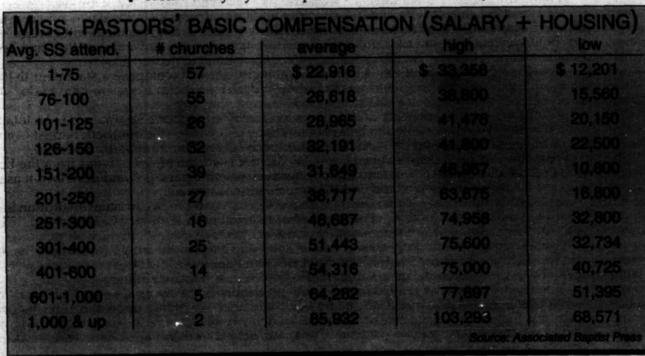
degree. In Mississippi, the average full-time pastor receives \$33,925 in compensation. The 13-state average is \$36,046, or \$2,121 higher.

In addition, the average Mississippi church spends \$6,826 in benefits for the pastor. Benefits include such items as retirement, medical insurance, life and disability insurance, and social security equivalency payments. This is \$531 less than the 13-state average of \$7,357 a year for benefits.

According to the study of 299 full-time pastor's compensation, 81.3% include retirement in the package, 73.6% include medical insurance, 53.5% include life insurance, and 42.4% include disability insurance.

For more information on the 1998 Compensation Study contact the Church-Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Or telephone (601) 292-3225, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Associated Baptist Press Contributed to this article.



New column to explore Miss. 'directions'

Today I introduce a new fea-ture in The Baptist Record. As you and I are in the early steps of our journey together as executive director-treasurer and Baptist family, I invite you to join me at this spot week after week in order that we might think together, pray together, laugh together, and look together. We will seek directions as the family of God. In Scripture there is no more beautiful imagery than Jesus leading his flock. Beneath that picture could be the caption from the Lord's lips, "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me."

Through this column I will seek to stay connected with you personally and individually. Each week I will share with you some information, or some inspiration, or insights that will help us to keep our focus on our direction together. At times this column may be a paper pulpit, and at other times it may be an arena of celebration as we share the joy of what God is doing among us. At some times there may be a call to action regarding some special need, but in the main I will seek to share my heart with you regarding the direction of Mississippi Baptists.

It is a fact that many wonderful things are happening in the Mississippi Baptist Convention. It is true that at many levels and in many places we are on the move. At the same time there are great needs and there is much to be done.

We must act quickly and we must act responsibly.



Directi

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

How do we find directions? Often there are so many different ideas, detouring concepts, and varying voices that it is hard to know which way to go.

Last year, at the conclusion of a Fourth of July celebration with fireworks and special activities, my family and I were caught in the "everybody leaves at the same time" traffic jam. We were at an intersection with a red light, but there was a live policeman standing out there directing traffic. The policeman started motioning for me to turn, so I started to turn left only to see another policeman standing over to my left, blowing a whistle and motioning for me to stop, and so I did. Right out in the middle of everything. That policeman realized that the other policeman had told me to go, and now he begins to demand that I get out of the intersection. I rolled my window down and was going to ask him what they really wanted me to do, but before I could ask, he told me in no uncertain terms, "Get movin'!" and he showed me the way.

At times there will be those

who will be saying this way or that way, and others will be saying, another way. Again the question arises, how do we find direction? The Lord does not leave us directionless. Here is reassurance from the Word, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith."

I generally have a pretty good sense of direction, and whether it's finding a building in the downtown part of the city or finding a place out on a Mississippi rural road, for the most part I have little problem. Recently Shirley and I were at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, and one afternoon we went to Nashville. My wife knew what she was looking for and I thought I had a pretty good idea of how to get there. The weather was overcast with a mountain mist blowing in every direction. You could barely see in front of you and winding around in an unfamiliar town, I was not sure what direction I was going. Since the sun was not out and I could not get my bearings from it, I glanced up at the directional indicator in the car, I was sure I

was going south but it said I was going north. Typical male that I am, I assumed that the car was wrong. As I drove on for several more minutes, it became apparent that the signal was correct and I was wrong. Time to turn around.

Christ has called us to a great and glorious task. We will look to him and he will guide us. When we tend to go off in every direction on our own we will trust him to redirect us and one by one, church by church, association by association, we will gather around him and sing, pray, and follow — "Lead on oh King eternal, the day of march has come."

Please join me in prayer as we look forward to our Mississippi Baptist Convention that will meet October 27-28, 1998, at First Church, Jackson. I hope you can attend, but even if you are unable to be present, pray for those who are going to be on the program. Pray that God will guide, use, and bless through them. Pray for our convention as decisions will be made, business will be conducted, friendships will be renewed, and hearts will be lifted. Pray that we might all remember that we represent him more than we represent

Pray that our convention might be the kind of meeting that when we dismiss and disburse to our places of service and work, that people might take note of us that we have been with Jesus.

Clarke reunion planned

The 1960, 1961, and 1962, classes of Clarke Memorial College (CMC), have planned reunion at Lake Tiah O'Khata in Louisville. A time of fellowship will be held in the afternoon followed by a banquet at 7 p.m. Any person who attended CMC (regardless of year) or faculty member may attend. For banquet reservations (\$17.50 per person), call Annie Laurie Fleming Thornton at (601) 856-4744, or write to 138 St. Augustine Drive, Madison, MS 39110.

Don Moore will be in charge of the program. Other committee members are David and Ina Patterson Weekly, Bobbie Shumate Haggerty, Mildred Hutchinson Rogers, and Hiram and Joan Curran Fleming.

SWBTS faculty to endorse amended 'BF & M'

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Faculty members at Southwestern Seminary will be required to sign the updated "Baptist Faith and Message" statement and teach accordingly or sever their relationship with the seminary, President Ken Hemphill said.

Southwestern is a confessional institution, and our charter and bylaws are clear and have been clear for decades," Hemphill said in a prepared statement.

Professors at the seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, have long been required to sign a pledge to teach in accordance with the "Baptist Faith and Message," the official doctrinal statement of the

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).
According to the faculty manual, professors who can no longer subscribe to the seminary's articles of faith are expected to "voluntarily sever relations with the institution," Hemphill said.

This summer the convention revised the statement, however, adding an amendment on the family, which gained nationwide publicity because of its emphasis on a wife's submission to the authority of her husband. It was the first amendment to the statement since 1963, when the convention approved several revisions in the document first drafted in 1925.

While a faculty spokesman said the faculty is "overwhelmingly supportive" of the family amendment, some faculty members said they object to adding the amendment to the seminary's articles of faith because it applies a particular interpretation to selected Bible verses while excluding other relevant passages.

Hemphill and the faculty discussed the issue at a general faculty.

Hemphill and the faculty discussed the issue at a general faculty meeting in early October. Hemphill declined to comment on the meeting or the issue itself other than to issue his prepared statement.

David Porter, director of public relations for Southwestern, said

no deadline has been set for faculty members to sign the statement. However, one faculty member told a reporter the underlying message given to professors was "sign on or sign off." The primary objection of many faculty members, he said, is that the policy under which they were employed and granted tenure — signing the 1963 statement — has been changed. And he said it was implied that the new signing would mean that "we agree with anything passed in the future." anything passed in the future."

Despite objections by some professors, faculty spokesman James Spivey said it was not his understanding that the faculty would be forced to sign the revised document, but that it would be "entirely voluntary." He said faculty members were not told they would have to resign if they refused to sign it.

Southern adopts new mission statement

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Trustees of Southern Seminary unanimously adopted a new mission

ment during their biannual meeting Oct. 11-12 at the Louisville, Ky., campus.

If greatest purpose with you today is to submit for your consideration a new mission statement is institution," said seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. The statement will govern "what we ow we conceive our task and how we understand our accountability to the churches of the

er said he and Southern's executive cabinet wanted to compose a statement that "really genuinely, plainly and unambiguously declares what it is we are here to do." Then he

nder the lordship of Jesus Christ, the mission of The Southern Seminary is to be totally com-to the Word of God and to be a servant of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention ining, educating and preparing ministers of the gospel for more faithful service." m the Old Testament text of 1 Sam. 3:1, Mohler cited the phrase, "word from the Lord was

ge" and described it as a warn-

In those days, visions were infrequent, as a "chastening passage" and described it as well as the motivation, behind the new mission statement. his is a reminder to me that the only vision worth having for a Christian institution is a scripvision. It must be biblical not only in substance, but in its authority," Mohler said. "The Bible authority by which we teach. We have nothing to say without holy Scripture. he seminary can be financially healthy and spiritually ill. It can be institutionally strong ... heologically bankrupt," Mohler continued. "But I am proud that this institution over the past ral years has taken the time and paid the price to say, 'Here we stand.' believe the Lord has richly blessed Southern Seminary for flying the flag with such bold color saying so clearly and so unapologetically that we stand upon the total inerrancy of ture, that we stand for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, that we stand for that conty of orthodox Christian doctrine Christians throughout the ages have embraced, and we as a Baptist institution." as a Baptist institution.'



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

REFRAIN FROM GAMBLING

I read with interest the letter of October 8 from Andy Brasher, "Gambling not sin." I read the letter several times

before I really got the gist of it.
I Cor. 8:13, among other scriptures, gives good advice to the Christian. He should refrain from doing anything that would cause a weaker brother to stumble. This would include gambling.

The analogy of a casino and church as "dens of iniquity" is hard to accept. It is possible for a lost sinner to be on a church membership roll by some hook or fashion.

A New Testament Church is made up of a group of born again, scripturally-baptized believers in Jesus Christ — who assemble for Bible Study, worship training, and fellowship.

A Christian is prone to sin but not habitually, according to 1 John 3. When he does sin he is sorry and remorseful and asks forgiveness from God.

As for some pastors leaving one church and going to another church for more money, the writer is correct. A church should take care of the pastor so that his needs can be met.

Many churches go by the old adage, "Lord, you keep our pastor humble, and we will keep him poor."

The Bible teaches that Christians should stand up against the wiles of Satan, no matter in what form they come.

Jim Burke Waynesboro

GAMBLING INFLUENCES

Editor:

Any way you look at it, gambling can have an influence on others if you gamble. Many have lost their homes, businesses, and other material things

because they gambled. Someone has said, "It's OK to go to the casino. I saw my Sunday School teacher there. The fact the teacher was seen there seemed to indicate it was OK.

Then there are those who say the food is great so they go and eat there. I have always been taught that if you get too close to the fire, you will get burned.

Admittedly, you can go the casino and just look around, but you being there doesn't set a very good example for other

Now, don't get me wrong, I sin as much as the next person and, I reckon, sin is sin, wrong is wrong, regardless. Also, I don't know that gambling is any worse than overeating or exceeding the speed limit.

Satan always looks good. I have never known him to appear as the Boogie Man "with horns and a pitchfork."

Should we strive to set an example for others? Then should we ask ourselves if visiting a casino or gambling sets that example?

The only good thing I can see that comes from casinos is that the American Indian is getting back a little of what we whites took away from him.

Billy Wayne Ethridge Collinsville

BAN GAMBLING IN MISS.

Editor:

Since I pastored a mission church in Nevada for two-anda-half years in the early 1990s, I would like to respond to the letter "Gambling Not Sin" in your Oct. 8 paper.

The long range effects of gambling are devastating. Vevada is a leader in divorce and child abuse. The high schools are loaded with drugs and crime. Immorality is a major problem.

Las Vegas courts can not decide what perversion is. Children are at risk. People in their fifth marriage by age 30. Young people in soap opera family trees. Why have it here?

Mississippi is a state of law and democracy. Let's ban legal gambling as our wise forefathers did.

David Howell Brandon

BEING GOOD STEWARDS

Editor:

Gambling is still sin in God's eves. First of all, it's not your money or my money. It's God's money, and he expects us to be good stewards with it. Gambling is not the way of a good steward, so the problem here is misuse, not excess of habit.

Second, what is a person's only motive for gambling? Do they go to lose? I think not. I don't know of a casino that gives loans. When you borrow from a bank, you pay the loan back with interest. This is not a gamble, but a business agreement.

98 Miss. Baptist State Softball Tourney Champs

A total of 120 softball teams entered the three tournaments sponsored this summer by the Sports Ministry Program in the ALERT the World Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Winners are depicted below. For more information, contact Tom Prather, ALERT the World Coordinator, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone; (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Class A Men, Rienzi Church, Rienzi



Class AA Women, Saudersville Church, Saudersville





Class AAA Men, Park Place Church, Brandon



Class AA Men, Russell Church, Meridian



Class AAA Women, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton

Third, what's wrong with a person doing better for themselves and their families? The man of God is human like you or me and he has to live too. If you quit your job for a higher paying one, have you sold your soul? The truth will set you free.

Fourth; the church is not an institution — it's the body of Christ. Yes, people are sinful by nature, but sin should never dominate over our Christian values and our walk with God.

So when we are in doubt about something, maybe we should take 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1 and 1 John 2:15-17 to heart.

Bob Leach Blue Springs

GAMBLING IS A SIN

Editor

This letter is in response to Andy Brasher's letter, which appeared in the October 8 issue of The Baptist Record. I disagree with his position on gambling.

with his position on gambling.
Gambling is a sin. Pro. 13:11
says that wealth gained through vanity will decrease, but wealth gathered through labor will increase.

1 Tim. 6:10 declares that the love of money is the root of all evil. Gambling encourages laziness, and promotes the false idea that a person can get something for nothing. Gambling causes crime, homelessness, etc.

Some claim that gambling will generate enough revenues to reduce or eliminate taxes. I disagree.

Gambling generates little

revenue in most of the states that offer it, and many state lotteries are riddled with corruption. Therefore, states with gambling must get additional revenues from taxes.

Taxes generate more revenues, because everyone pays them except those on welfare. Gambling gets its revenues from those who gamble. Thus I prefer taxes as a revenue source.

Governments need money to pay their bills. The notion that governments don't need to levy taxes to pay their bills is, as George Bush used to say, "voodoo economics."

Kevin Waller Meadville

SINS CAN BE FORGIVEN

Editor:

In response to the letter, "Gambling Not a Sin," by Andy Brasher, affirmation is due for at least two painfully truthful but valid points.

First, like casinos, even houses of prayer (churches) indeed can be and often tragically are made into "dens of iniquity" according to Jesus (Mark 11:17).

The primary distinction here is the inherent nature of each. Since Jesus himself established his church, it is thereby inherently righteous. Whereas, a gambling casino, established by the evil one, is by its very nature inherently evil (Matt. 16:18)

To say "gambling is not a sin unless it is abused" is like rewording the Eighth Commandment to say "Thou shalt not steal ... in excess!"

Secondly, Jesus does warn us to not spend our time judging and condemning others (Matt. 7:1), but rather to focus on and remove our own sins (Matt. 7:5).

Jesus, however, does instruct us to be careful, telling us a tree (person) shall be "known by its fruit" (Matt. 7:16).

According to the Bible, gambling's root motive is "the love of money," causing many to "fall into temptation and a snare" (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

Thanks be to God that through repentance and faith, the sin of gambling, like all other sin, can be forgiven and healed through the blood of

Stephen Forfer Mize

LOTT COMMENDED

Editor

Responding to the criticism of Mississippi Senator Trent Lott's view of homosexuality, the Alcorn Association executive committee on October 11 passed a resolution to (commend) U.S. Sen. Trent Lott for his biblical stand on homosexuality.

When Lott was interviewed by talk show host Armstrong William, Lott stated that he believed homosexuality is a sin. Immediately, Lott received criticism from the gay community, the liberal media, and White House press secretary Mike McCurry.

McCurry said Lott and those who oppose the homosexual lifestyle were "backward in their thinking."

The Alcorn Association executive committee asked the association's Christian Action Committee to send the following letter to Lott:

The Alcorn Baptist Association, which represents 32 Southern Baptist Churches in Alcorn County, Miss., had an executive committee meeting on Sunday, October 11, 1998. At the meeting, the executive committee passed a resolution commending you for taking a biblical stand on homosexuality. We realize that you have received a great deal of criticism from the gay community, the liberal media, and even the White House. We want you to know that there are Christians who appreciate your courage for boldly speaking out when being quiet would have been easier. Our prayers will be with you as you continue to serve in the Senate.

Trevanion Smith, chair Christian Action Committee Alcorn Baptist Association

THANKS FOR HELP

Editor:

Words seem inappropriate to express my thanks on behalf of citizens of Pascagoula and surrounding areas to the Miss. Baptist Disaster Relief Unit and the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union Disaster Relief Team, for helping us after Hurricane Georges.

Jim Didlake, Kay Cassibry, and the Baptist volunteers were caring and organized to get the

job done.

They gave a visible witness to what Mississippi Baptists are all about.

My thanks also goes to Mississippi Baptists who support the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. Each one has a part in helping us to get on our feet again.

we have a great state convention. I knew that before this

disaster

It is my prayer that all of us will support our new leader, Jim Futral, as our convention stays on the cutting edge of ministry.

Rex Yancey, pastor First Church, Pascagoula



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.

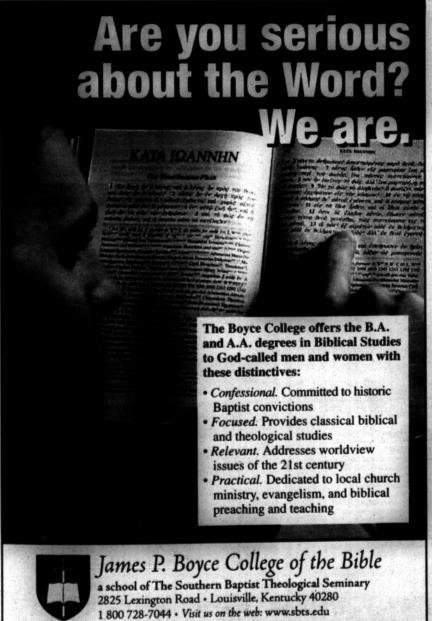
 (I repent.)
- I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
 (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.

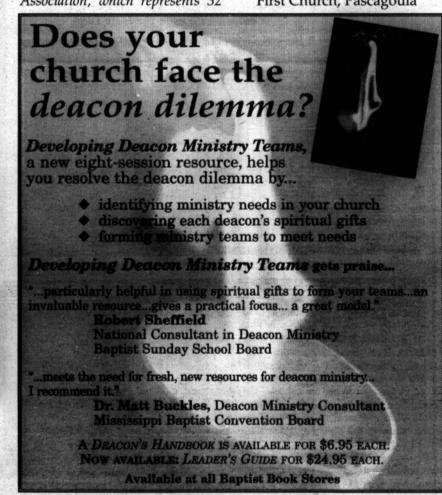
 (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who whelieve in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

WAS THE COLUMN







retired executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Larry Kennedy, president of William Carey College, recog-nized 19 Mississippi College Women's alumnae at Fall Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

Bill Causey, recent-

William Carey College students and Tim Glaze, director, Baptist Student Union, will participate in mission trips Oct. 30-Nov. 7 in Galeana, Mexico, and Houston, Texas. The trip to Mexico will involve 17 students and Glaze working in conjunction with "A Mission of Love," a Causey and Kennedy non-denominational,

multicultural ministry founded by Bobby Shurden, pastor of Crestview Church, Petal. Twelve students will participate in the trip to Houston where they will take part in an inner city ministry. Students will work with the Gano Baptist Center to coordinate street and children's ministries. For more information, contact Glaze at (601) 582-6386.

Winters School of Music will present Markus Schirmer, a renowned Austrian pianist, in concert as part of the 1998-99 William Carey College Concert Series Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. A native of Graz, Austria, Schirmer studied at the Graz Academy of Music. For ticket information, contact the music department at (601) 582-6175.

Gunter Road, Florence: Oct. 25-28; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., mini concert, 5:30 p.m., and worship, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jim Bryant, evangelist; Jerry Jay and The Bryants, music; Gene Jordan, pastor.

Grandview, Pearl: Nov. 1-4; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Major McDaniel, Clinton, music; Wade Chappell, pastor.

New Hope, Starkville: Oct. 25-28; Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dale Walker, pastor, Sturgis Church, speaker; Archie Chesser, music; David C. Holston, pastor.

Homecomings

Carson, Carson: Oct. 25; 94th year; Sunday School; morning worship with Charles Harvey; meal in fellowship hall followed by an afternoon of testimony, singing, and sharing; Milton Scott, pastor.

Cranfield (Adams-Union): Oct. 25; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; singing, 1:30 p.m., Sisters in Christ, guest singers; Curt Wilson, Meadville, guest speaker; Tony Mullins, pastor.

Bentonia (Yazoo): Oct. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch following fellowship; Andy May, Holly Bluff, guest speaker; Cliff Pace, pastor.

(Washington): Glendale Oct. 25; worship, 11 a.m.; speaking during the service

will be Buddy Hampton, Eunice, La., and Ed Pendergrast and Donald Pouns, former pastors; lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.; special communion celebration will begin at 2 p.m.; Keith Dendy, pastor.

Zion Hill, Union County Association: Oct. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1 p.m., Promise Land, music; 5:30 p.m., hay ride and fellowship; H. G. West Jr., Tennessee, guest speaker; Mark Harrison, pastor.

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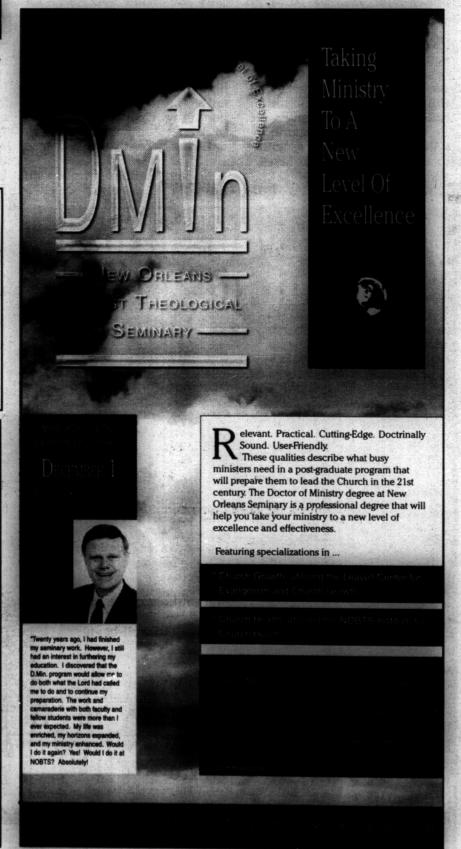
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OR MUSIC/YOUTH MINIS-TER. Stringer Baptist hurch, PO Box 65, Stringer, MS 39481. Call (601) 425-2889 After 5:00 P.M.

NOBTS opens registration for Miss. courses

Students may register now at six locations throughout Mississippi for Church Leadership Certificate Program classes offered through New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) in New Orleans.

Courses begin Oct. 26, with registration taking place the first day of class. A one-time application fee of \$25 is required and the fee for each course is \$75.

Classes meet for two hours

on one evening each week from Oct. 26-Dec. 14. The courses and locations are:

 Music Administration, taught by Jimmy McCaleb.
 Principles of Teaching and Learning, taught by Larry Garner. The Book of Revelation, taught by Jack Glaze. Broadmoor Church, Jackson, from 7-9 p.m.

 Music Administration, taught by James Hayes.
 Principles of Teaching and Learning, taught by Ken Rhodes. Purvis Center at First Church, Purvis, from 6:30-8:30

Music Administration, taught by Buddy McElroy. Meridian Center at Northcrest Church, Meridian, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

• Music Administration, taught by Joe Elliott. McComb Center at East McComb Church, from 7-9 p.m.

 Music Administration, taught by LuAnn Ford.
 Principles of Teaching and Learning, taught by Lynn Jones. Booneville Center at First Church, Booneville, from 7-9 p.m.

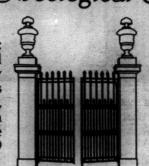
Music Administration, taught by Ed Nix. Principles of Teaching

Music Principles of Price Price

Teaching a n d Learning, taught by D o u g Daptist Theological Seminary

Warren.
New Testament Survey:
The Epistle of Paul and
Other Writers, taught by
Bill Duncan. Columbus
Center at First Church,
Columbus and Golden
Triangle Association office
in Columbus, from 7-9

The Church Leadership Certificate Program is designed to train laypersons to serve as part-time education ministers, music ministers, or pastors. For more information, contact coordinator Chester Vaughn at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211-2412. Telephone: (601) 956-6285. The NOBTS College of Undergraduate Studies can be contacted at (800) NOBTS-01.



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It is easy to say you are going to "focus" on well-being, but taking the first step is essential. A good start is to evaluate your overall health. Another important step is to look over your life and health coverage.

For assistance, stop by the Annuity Poard's exhibit during the state convention to check out the valuable resources we offer Southern Baptist pastors, other ministers and employees.

Let us help you start out on the right foot as you begin the journey to well-being.





LifeAhswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D. Minister of Counseling First Church, Jackson

Our ten-year-old daughter still wants to sleep with us at night. How do we break this habit?

It is not abnormal for children to crawl into their parents' bed but as they get older and it becomes a ritual, stricter measures are needed. Don't get frustrated or shame your daughter for simply wanting to be close to you. Prepare her by making statements such as, "You're getting older and you need to stay in your own bed. When you come into our bed-room, we'll be taking you back to your own bed to sleep." Preparing her in this way sets understandable boundaries but be sure you consistently follow through with actions to match your words. Experts say 21 days are required to break a habit; you will have to enforce these boundaries until the old habit is broken and a new one is in place. Be patient and offer praise on the nights she sleeps in her bed. If she's sick and wishes to sleep in your bedroom, make a pallet on the floor next to your bed. She will eventually realize that your bed is not hers. Taking these steps at this stage in her life will also

help her understand the sanctity of the marriage bed when the time comes to be joined to her spouse for a lifetime.

a.h., worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in tellowship hall;

Why do my teenagers want to listen to music that does not honor God?

Proverbs 22:15 tells us that "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child..." Help your teens to discern what is right for them in terms of music as they grow through this period in which they are beginning to make decisions for them-selves. At this point, there is no substitute for communication. Be informed. Don't put down the pop music they like, but rather talk with them about their music and ask how they deal with the parts that oppose their Christian testimony. **Enjoy Christian music yourself** at home and in the automobue, and comment to them on why you like that type of music. Allow them to spread their wings, praise them when they succeed, and be there to help when they fall. Your example can show them that music is a wonderful way to praise our Heavenly Father.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

CONT. LA MEDICA

THE PAYMENT KOCORD



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recently participated in the Acteen Recognition Service. Acteens (pictured) are Misty Robinson, Connie Roye, Katherine Waldrop, Megan McKinney, Maggie Laster, Corrie Vitalis, and Maggie Long Waldron, McKinney Long. Waldrop, McKinney, Vitalis, and Long received their crowns for completing all Queen level Studi Act projects.

farkson a spokesperson has

the time of the first and

Palestine Church, Raymond, will celebrate the oldest festival in civilization. Marty Cohen, a Christian and a Jewish believer, travels extensively teaching Jewish customs, mainly to Gentile congregations. Founder of Messianic Messages of Dallas, Texas, Cohen will lead this Feast of the Lord and will teach its Jewish customs and traditions while uncovering the revelation of the Messiah of Israel and the Hope of the Nations. Observance of the Passover as celebrated by Jesus and his disci-ples will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. Speaker at regular services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25.

Faith Church, Florence, will host a benefit gospel sing on Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m., featuring The Gospel Messengers of Florence, The Bryants of Faith Church, and Mike Bryant of Florence. For more information call Jim Bryant, pastor, at (601) 845-6155.

First Church, Mize, will present Judgement House, an evangelistic alternative to Halloween and the notorious haunted house, Oct. 28 and 29, 7-10 p.m., Oct. 30, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.; and Oct. 31, 6 p.m.-1 a.m. For reservations and information call (601) 733-2233.

Hebron Church, Meridian, will host a reception in honor of Tommy Jones, pastor on Oct. 25 at 2:30 p.m. Jones is retiring after 19 years of service. He has been a pastor for 40 years.

Don and Carol Menshew, missionaries on furlough from Rundu, Namibia, shared their mission experiences in Africa at Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, on Aug. 30. Wayne Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church. The Menshews can be contacted at 6772 Goswell Court, Germantown, TN 38138 or call (901) 758-3246.

Good Hope Church, Lena, will celebrate Harvest Day on Oct. 25. Activities will include International Airport.

Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; and lunch served following a.m. service. Guest speaker will be Benji Sessums.

First Church, Jackson, will host Kenny McCaughey, father of the first liv-ing and healthy sep-tuplets, in both morning worship services on Oct. 25. The McCaughey's p.m., Oct. 24, on the mezzanine level



book, Seven from Heaven, will be released the weekend of McCaughey's visit and he will be available to autograph books after the graph books after the the services. A services A seven from Heaven, made a visit to Maude Fanning of Newton on her 100th birthday. They made birthday cards for her, sang "Happy Birthday," and took her a green plant. The group leaders are Kim Beatty and Beverly Nelson. RAs pictured with Fanning (clockwise) are Joseph Yarbrough, Trenton Evans, The RAs (Grades 1-3) from First Church, graph books after the wise) are Joseph Yarbrough, Trenton Evans, 11 a.m. service. A Nicholas Car, Jef Foshee, Gunnar Gentry, press conference is Tyler Nelson, Jay Gentry, and Grant Beatty. Frank Harmon is pastor of First Church.

Want to get a head start on your college education at special prices?

Mississippi College will give the high school class of 2000 this opportunity during the summer of 1999.

June 1 - August 4, a special program will be offered that will allow you to enroll in actual college courses for college credit.

If you are a high school student who will graduate in 2000, you can take two academic courses for each of the five-week terms.

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> For application and additional information contact: Dr. Buddy Wagner Mississippi College Box 4016 Clinton, MS 39058 601-925-3354



Mississippi College



Calvary Church, Petal, held ground breaking services (pictured) on Aug. 30 for a Family Life building at the cost of \$900,600. The completion of the 17,600 sq. ft. building is anticipated by summer of 1999. Ben Crim is chairman of the building committee. David Shofner is pastor.

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Staff Changes

First Church of Lizana,

Gulfport has called Lev Helmuth as pastor effective Sept. 27. Helmuth also continue his education at e Orleans



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Don Norris was ordained to the ministry at Star Church, Star, on Oct. 4. He is minister of youth and activities at Star Church. Pictured (from left) are Vic Bowman, pastor; Don Norris; and Jennifer Norris.



First Church, Belzoni, held a deacon ordination service on Sept. 27 for Alan Roberts. Pictured (from left) are Bob Norsworthy, guest speaker; Roberts; and Grant Arinder, pastor. A reception followed the ordination service.

PPI COLLEGE WELCOM



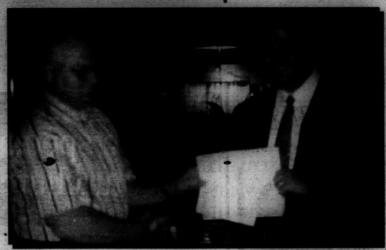
Rick Robbins was recently ordained as a deacon at Hillcrest Church, New Albany. He is the third of three sons of Marshall (a deacon) and Shelia Robbins to be ordained as deacon. Pictured (front, from left) are Steve Robbins, Rick Robbins, Tony Robbins; (back row) Marshall Robbins, and Dean Timbes, pastor. David Foley was also ordained as a deacon and Jason Blackburn, minister to work and children was ordained to the ministry. youth and children, was ordained to the ministry.



Atwood, Bain, Inmon, and Brown

Tony M. Inmon was recent-ly ordained into the ministry by First Church, Oxford. He is the son of Pat and Gerald Inmon of Oxford. Inmon grad-Inmon of Oxford. Inmon grad-uated from Blue Mountain College (BMC) in May and is currently serving as the associ-ate pastor of Cason Church, Nettleton. He attends New Orleans Seminary extension in Birmingham, Ala. Pictured (from left) are Tom Atwood, pastor, First Church; Douglas Bain, professor at BMC: Inmon: Bain, professor at BMC; Inmon; and Wayne Brown, pastor, Cason Church.

Bill Rainer was ordained as



Rainer and Mooney

No flu shots

at convention

The Mississippi College

School of Nursing will be unable to administer flu shots at the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting Oct. 27-28 at First Church,

Jackson, a spokesperson has

"This is due to our fall recess occurring during the same days as the Mississippi Baptist Convention. We are sorry that we will not be there, and we hope to be back for the

"We encourage each of you to get a flu shot either through your personal physician or local health department," said Deborah Bolian, assistant pro-

the school.

announced.

1999 convention.

deacon at Center Grove Church, Causeyville, on Aug. 2. Pictured are Rainer and Ervin Mooney, pastor.

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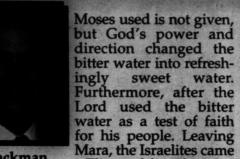
Trusting God to meet physical needs Exodus 15:23-26; 16:11-14; 17:2b

By Walter M. Blackman

What if you picked up a Caribbean Cruise brochure and it said, "Warning, you may have to endure bitter water, hunger, thirst, attacks from pirates, and poor organization." All of us would ask for a prompt refund. Many of the early settlers of our country faced those very perils, yet they came and brought their families in search of a new life of freedom. As God's people set out for the promised land, they faced great challenges to their physical needs. They complained about their circumplained about their circumstances, but in every instance, God provided.

The experience of the Israelites teaches us

a great lesson about trusting God to meet our every need. Provision modified (15:23-26). The hot, dry wilderness made the Israelites very thirsty. Water was absolutely necessary for life, not only for the people, but the livestock with them. They came to the waters of Mara. The name Mara in Hebrew means bitter. Having no water was bad enough, but finding water they could not drink caused the people to grumble. Moses prayed to the Lord and God answered by showing Moses a tree to throw into the water. The type of tree



to Elim and found twelve springs of water with date palms around them.

Sometimes in our lives, we encounter bitter experiences. God expects us to trust him to change our bitter moments into something useful to us, to oth-ers, and God's glory. Paul told believers to trust God to work all things together for good, even the bitter waters we encounter in our journey of faith (Rom 8:28). Provision multiplied (16:11-

14). Food was another necessity God's people needed. They grumbled and complained to Moses for their lack of food. Moses prayed and the Lord pro-

vided another test of faith. He gave them bread and meat. The bread was provided by a sub-stance left after dew evaporated called manna. In the evening, the quail landed in the camp and were taken by the Israelites for meat. The Lord revealed himself as the one who not only could deliver his people, but provide for them. Christians need to remind themselves in times of testing of the Lord's sal-vation, but also his ability to provide for every need. Paul was able to say with assurance

the God he served could supply all our needs (Phil 4:19).

Provision supplied (17:2b, 5-6). The Israelites quickly forgot their lessons in faith and complained to Moses again. Instead of trusting God, they blamed Moses for taking them in the wilderness to die. They should have prayed instead of com-plained. Moses prayed to the Lord who provided a rock filled with water. Moses obeyed the

Lord's command to strike the rock with his staff and the water flowed freely. Christians need to learn to take their requests to the Lord instead of complaining and grumbling about their cir-cumstances. The same God who caused water to flow from a caused water to flow from a rock can supply any need we have today. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well he could provide water which would quench all her thirst and would be a well of water springing up to life everlasting (John 4:14). In God's time, Jesus was 'struck' and the Rock of our salvation gushed forth with a life-giving, life-sustaining, and life-changing flow. Have you life-changing flow. Have you taken a drink from the Rock of God, the Lord Jesus? God has supplied every provision we need for life. Do we ask for and trust God to provide our needs or do we complain and grumble at every challenge we face?

Blackman is pastor of First

Church, Marion.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Bringing hope 2 Kings 5:2-6, 9-14

By Greg Bowers

Sickness is no respector of persons. It doesn't look at our position in life. It isn't concerned with what we have or don't have. It attacks indiscriminately, but people respond in a variety of ways. Some are filled with self-pity. Some become bitter and lash out. Some become unreasonable in their search for a cure. Naaman probably felt all of those emotions before God miraculously restored his health.

Igniting hope (vv. 2-3). In verse one, we are introduced to Naaman, the commander of the army of Ben-Hadad, the King of Aram. Ben-Hadad may have been his title rather than his

name. It means "son of Hadad." god) The

Arameans (elsewhere called Syrians) were a potent political force during the time of Israel's united monarchy, although David battled successfully against them and married the daughter of an Aramean king. That marriage produced Absalom, David's rebellious son. Naaman is highly regarded in Aram, although God is identified as the one who provides tified as the one who provides his victories. He is praised for his courage and loyalty but the verse also notes the sad fact that he suffers from leprosy, a conta-gious skin disease which starts as tingling in the fingers and toes but eventually causes limbs



Bowers

to wither and literally fall off. Lepers were out-casts, forcibly removed from their families and friends. Naaman's hopes were undoubtedly raised when a captive slave girl from Israel was assigned to his wife. She told him of a prophet in Samaria who could heal

him. That prophet was Elisha. Fanning hope (vv. 4-6). The Aramean king was anxious for his valuable commander to be cleansed, not only because he was a trusted friend, but because the dreaded disease would eventually rob him of his top military aid. He sent Naaman to King Joram of Israel with expensive gifts: ten talents of silver (750 pounds), 6,000 pieces of gold (150 pounds) and ten luxurious sets of clothing. Naaman also carried a letter from Ben-Hadad to the Israelite king, indicating the purpose of the treasures. Ben-Hadad and

Naaman believed that money could purchase anything, including good health. They did not realize that healing was

a gift from God. Dashing hope (vv. 9-12). Naaman and his entourage arrived at Elisha's house. He expected to be met at the door and, after the presentation of gifts, to depart healed. Instead of meeting Naaman at the door, Elisha sent a message: wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was outraged. He even thought to himself, "If washing in a river is the only thing necessary to be healed, I would rather stay home and wash in our clean local rivers than wash in the muddy Jordan River." Naaman expressed two common characteristics of hopeless people: desperation and bitterness. He had likely tried every cure in the world and lashed out when this

seemingly last ditch effort failed. Fulfilling hope (vv. 13-14). Naaman's servants were more rational than he. They lovingly entreated him to at least try the required remedy. They displayed a "what do you have to lose?" mentality. Their words moved Naaman into action and he steped down into the Jordan River. After seven washings, he was healed. He immediately traveled to Elisha's house and acknowledged faith in the true God of Israel. He also offered Elisha a monetary reward, but Elisha refused. He had not performed the miracle for reward but for God's glory. Naaman requested and received two sackfuls of Israelite dirt to take back to Syria in order to build an altar to the true God. He seemed sincere in his dedication to God, but, in verse 18, he issued a disclaimer: "don't feel badly toward me if I bow down and worship the king once I arrive home in Syria." He wasn't quite ready for total unreserved commitment.

Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.

LIFE AND WORK

Tackling tough situations 2 Corinthians 7:6-9, 13b-15, 8:6, 16-17, 23; Titus 1:5, 10-11; 2:15; 3:14

By Michael Johnson

The relationship between the problems, he Paul and the church at Corinth took the initiative. reading of 1 and 2 Corinthians highlights some of these prob-lems which required Paul to make several trips to Corinth including a 'painful visit' (2 Cor 2:1; 12:14; 13:1-2). Space does not allow for a fuller treatment of these issues but they can be explored with the aid of any good commentary. The focus of this week's lesson is to highlight Paul's strategy in dealing with the difficulties he had with the Corinthians. Instead of taking the Scarlet O'Hara approach ("I'll worry about that tomor-

row"), Paul not only

was difficult at best. A careful Could this be a model of how cha we might deal with the tough situations we face in life?

Confrontation (2 Cor 7:6-9, 13b-15). Paul had received a variety of reports on the problems that plagued the church in Corinth (see 1 Cor :11, 7:1). Apparently Paul did not hesitate to deal with the situation. There are indications that Paul not only made a visit but followed up with a letter. The let-ter was delivered by Titus, who brought a reply to Paul. The Scripture indicates that Paul's letter and Titus had been favor-



Johnson

ably received. Apparently this particular crises was

By nature, people tend to avoid conflict. Yet unresolved difficulties can be like a cancer, when left unchecked, can grow and destroy an otherwise healthy body. The quicker the cancer is confronted and excised, the overall

ces for healing are dramatically increased. Confronting problems and working with others to solve them is not easy; but when done successfully, it can open the door for further spiritual growth and stronger relation-

Restoring trust (2 Cor 8:6, 16-17, 23). One of Paul's projects was to collect famine relief money from the 'Gentile Christian churches' for the 'Jewish Christian church' in Jerusalem. Paul was not only concerned about the physical welfare of all the churches, but

he was concerned about the relationships between the churches for there had been considerable tension between the Gentile and Jewish Christians (see Acts 15). Paul apparently understood that after conflict, there needs to be a way in which relationships can be restored and trust can be rebuilt.

No doubt through the collection of the offering Paul was seeking to strengthen the bond between the Jews and Gentile Christians. By sending Titus to collect an offering from the Corinthians, Paul was indicating his confidence that they would want to be part of this larger missionary endeavor. By allowing the Corinthians to participate in the offering, Paul was also demonstrating that his trust has been restored.

Commitment (Titus 1:5, 10-11; 2:15; 3:14). Our study now shifts to Paul's letter to Titus. Titus was the pastor of the Christian church in Crete where he had been left by Paul to correct many of the disorders which had arisen in the church. Titus' experiences in Corinth no doubt qualified him to confront

the situation on Crete. Here we find that perseverance and following through are critical elements when dealing with difficult situations (3:13 14). As we examine the entire letter we are struck by Paul's advice in chapter 2 to be living examples of the doctrines that we profess. God's grace not only instructs on how to live but gives us the power in which to live. Many of the tough situations we confront did not develop overnight; likewise it will take a significant amount of time and work to overcome them. If we are not successful at our first attempt to persevere, don't despair. Press on ...Paul did! (2 Timothy 4:8-9)

Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.



Your church logo THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1998

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From the Pastors Desk

Many pastors enjoy the privilege of communicating with their members through weekly monthly columns. When

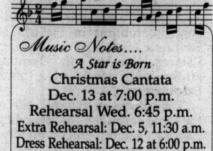
preparing your newsletter, you might consider utilizing a portion of the space for a pastor's column. Words of encouragement, thoughts to ponder, or promotion of events are just a few ideas of what your pastor may choose to write about in his own editorial.

YOUTH

FIFTH OUARTER: Oct. 23. Meet at the church 9:30 p.m. after Friday's game. This week's fifth quarter will be held at he Stewarts' home.

FRONTLINE: Bible Study Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. A time of music, fun, felowship, and Bible Study.

This week's guest: Dave Edwards.



SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

	ATALAGATOS
October 18	, 1998
Sunday School	179
Budget Receipts	\$6,209.73
Designated Gifts	\$617.50
Total Receipts	\$6827.23
Receipts To Date	\$121,911.59
Needs To Date	\$119,699.14
Difference	\$2,212.45

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MISSION OFFERING GOALS!



Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual Turkey Dinner Celebration has been scheduled for Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our youth will be providing the entertainment. Tickets are \$5.00. Anyone wishing to help provide pumpkin pie or dressing please contact the church office.

DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD BE READING YOUR CHURCH OR ASSOCIATIONAL NEWSLETTER IN THIS SPACE?

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of The Baptist Record. This costeffective method allows vour church to keep your members informed important church news while supplying them with the best source for Mississippi Baptist news.

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Take a closer look at some of our ideas on this sample page and contact us if you would like to be reading your own

The Baptist Record.

For a free worksheet to deterciational newsletter. That's it. mine the money your church could save, contact Debbie Sills at (601) 292-3375 or 1-800-748-1651.



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS... The Joe Smith Family

What a wonderful way to welcome new members and introduce them to your congregation!

ADDING PICTURES TO YOUR PAGE PERSONALIZES IT.

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This week's calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed There is a second of the s
USE AS A REMINDER OF THE EVENTS DURING THE WEEK OR MONTH.	Women on Mission 10 a.m. Visitation 5:45 p.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m.	Supper 5:15 p.m. Mission Mtgs. 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7 p.m.
Thurs	Fri	Sat	IN THE HOSPITAL
Single Adult Bible Study 7 p.m.	Youth Lock-in 5:30 p.m. in Gym	Gospel Concert 6:30 p.m.	Methodist Rehab. Sam HughesRm 615 Baptist
	Sedu Sylphed		Jamie TuckerRm 356

Nursery Workers Needed!!

ADVERTISE FOR SPECIAL POSITIONS OR FOR MEETINGS.

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Dominican Republic relief efforts underway

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (BP) — Yolanda Abrea had a Dominican decision to make: Stay and weather Hurricane Georges in her house or go to the storm shelter and chance losing all her possessions to thieves.



UNEXPECTED DAMAGE Mary Virgin avoided losing her roof to hurricane winds, but the tree in her front yard was pushed over and fell across her house. Virgin, a member of the Baptist church in Bonao, Dominican Republic, was not injured. Southern Baptists will help re-roof hundreds of houses in the Dominican Republic and islands throughout the Caribbean that were damaged in Hurricane Georges. (BP photo by Chris Turner)

> Bibliocipher By Charles Marx copyright 1998

MUNICIPE

OR UEO IEO IRUW XR UW, WYIWMX XAW NEX-AWV PASIA AEXA HWOX TVEP ASU: EOT S PSBB VESHW ASU DM EX XAW BEHX TEJ.

QRAO HSY: NRVXJ-NRDV

Clue: T = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Five Six.

"I stayed as long as I could," she said.
"But the winds got so strong. They came and told us we needed to get to the shelter."

Thieves didn't get her possessions, but rains associated with the hurricane did. Nearly everything was soaked after the

wind stripped away the roof of her house. But Abrea still fared better than most in the Dominican Republic. More than 100,000 people were driven from their homes after Georges slammed into the southeast side of the island of Hispaniola. What the 110-plus-mph winds didn't do, widespread flooding did. More than 260 people were killed and 90% of the nation's food crops - mostly rice and bananas -

"These people are in a desperate situa-tion," said Eddie Pettit, a damage assessor working with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB). "Storms like this just wreak havoc on peo-

Pettit's job was to evaluate where Southern Baptist resources could be used effectively. The extensive damage across the Caribbean created an immediate need for volunteers and donations to help people rebuild their devastated lives.

The need for donations is compounded by massive flooding in Bangladesh, for which Southern Baptist missionaries also are mobilizing relief ministries. The IMB released more than \$166,000

Oct. 16 for food distribution in the Dominican Republic. Additional money will be released for roof construction as funds become available.

Financial resources are running low in the board's general disaster relief fund due to the extensive needs in both the Caribbean Basin and Bangladesh. Donations are being used as quickly as

they are received.

This has been an incredible year for

disasters," said Ron Wilson, regional leader for the International Mission Board's work in the Caribbean. "We know we can't meet every need around the world, but right now we really need to have \$1 million available in the general relief fund to adequately deal with the basic needs people have as a result of these two disasters

"It is also a strategic point for ministry. We meet their basic needs, but we also share with them about the love of Jesus Christ. This gives us a tremendous platform to share the gospel.

As in Bangladesh, flooding caused most of the deaths in the Dominican Republic. Flood damage also is a more widespread concern than the damage

initially done by the hurricane.
"One thing that won't show
up in the hurricane statistics is the loss of life due to illness and disease," Wilson said. "With the contaminated water and the mud, things like hepatitis and

Southern Baptist missionaries have distributed more than 1,000 sheets of zinc roofing materials and started a food relief program helping 720 families.

Eight roofing teams of up to six people each are needed in the Dominican Republic immediately, Wilson said. Experience in building roof trusses is desperately needed.

There also is a need for another eight teams to work on St. Kitts, the Leeward

Island hardest hit by Georges.

People interested in participating in a project — or in obtaining more information about future projects — may contact Mickey Caison at the North American Mission Board at (770) 410-6442 or Joyce Glover at the International Mission Board toll-free at 1-800-999-3113, ext. 1331.



NOT MUCH LEFT — When hurricane winds blow, it typhoid are going to become a is usually the homes of the poor that suffer the most dam-real problem." age. Eddie Pettit, a damage assessor with the At least five cases of typhoid International Mission Board, examines what little roof have already been reported at and walls remain of a house in the Dominican Republic. one refugee center and several More than 100,000 people lost houses and more than cases of dengue fever, a disease 260 were killed as a result of Hurricane Georges. (BP carried by mosquitoes.

Fla. Baptists report subtle expansion of gambling

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) The fact that Florida has voted down full casino gambling three times doesn't mean that gambling opportunities in the state aren't expanding, said Bill Bunkley, a legislative con-sultant for the Florida Baptist Convention.

The Florida legislature is expanding gambling at some level on an annual basis, Bunkley said. During the 1998 session, legislators reduced the number of clerks required for self-vending lottery ticket machines from two to one in order to expand the pool of retailers qualified to use the machines. The law also extended instant lotto vending after an 18-month trial period, anticipating a gross annual revenue of about \$9.5 million.

The vending machines are supposed to be under the direct supervision of the clerk, who has the capability to electronically deactivate the machine if a minor tries to buy a ticket. If a minor does obtain a ticket from the machine, the vendor is penalized by having to staff two clerks at the location.

Even with those provisions, teens have too ready an access to the machines, which frequently are placed in shopping malls, Bunkley said.

Several key pieces of legisla-tion in 1996 paved the way for the player-activated machines, as well as authorized card rooms at

pari-mutuel wagering facilities. Florida allows two of three classes of gaming: class I social games with low stakes and class II - bingo, pulltabs, lotteries, and non house-bank-

ing card games, such as poker.

Class III gambling — full
casino gambling which includes
slot machines and blackjack is illegal in the state.

A difficulty in regulating gaming in Florida is the proliferation of "casino cruises," which try to get around state law by conducting class III gaming in international waters. "What's done on 'cruises to

nowhere' isn't legal on land," said Pat Fowler, director of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, who estimated there are at least 26 "floating casinos, full-fledged casinos on water," that dot the perimeter of the state.

Florida doesn't allow casino gambling, but its citizens are provided with access to it on a local level, Fowler said, when community authorities allow the docking and departure of "casi-no cruises" from their ports.

Though some businesses get away with conducting class III gambling on ocean-bound cruis-es, land-based gambling, including Indian gaming, is subject to the bounds of state law.

A main provider of land-based gambling in Florida is Seminole Indian Gaming Palaces, located in Tampa Hollywood, Immokalee, and Brighton.

The palaces must work within the same perimeters as any other gaming establishment in the state, offering solely class I and II

forms of gaming.

Bunkley said now is the time for Florida Baptists to ask candidates before the November elections about their positions on "any expansion of gambling," not just whether they support

casino gambling in the state.

"Florida Baptists need to regain their vigilance and their watch for any sign from elected officials, potential candidates or staff persons for the state of Florida, of an openness or will-ingness for even a slight expan-sion of any gambling interests or activities," Bunkley said.